

response to the Final Office Action. Should such request or fee be deficient or absent, consider this paragraph such a request and authorization to withdraw the appropriate fee under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 from Alcon Laboratories Deposit Account No..

Applicants respectfully request that the continuing application be examined in light of the following amendments.

I. AMENDMENT

Please make the following amendments:

In the Specification

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 9 and replace it with the following:

--Surprisingly, it has been found that cultured human trabecular meshwork cell lines derived from glaucomatous donors express mRNA for both an alternate splice form of the human glucocorticoid receptor (GR β) (SEQ ID NO:1), as well as the normal glucocorticoid receptor (GR α) (SEQ ID NO:3), whereas normal TM cell lines only express mRNA for GR α . It is believed that the elevated intraocular pressure associated with primary open-angle glaucoma may be due to the aberrant expression of GR β (SEQ ID NO:2) in the trabecular meshwork. Therefore, determining that an individual abnormally expresses GR β in their trabecular meshwork or other tissues can lead to a diagnosis of glaucoma. Also, this discovery can be used to determine whether agents have therapeutic value in treating glaucoma by determining whether they interact with GR β (SEQ ID NO:1) or alter the expression of GR β (SEQ ID NO:2). This can be done using ligand binding assays or GR β functional assays.--